

Submission
No 93

**INQUIRY INTO WATER NSW AMENDMENT
(WARRAGAMBA DAM) BILL 2018**

Organisation: Blue Mountains Conservation Society

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Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc
ABN 38 686 119 087
PO Box 29 Wentworth Falls, NSW, 2782
Phone: (02) 4757 1872
E-Mail: bmcs@bluemountains.org.au Web Site: www.bluemountains.org.au
Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow

3 October 2018

The Hon. Martin Taylor,
MLC Chair Standing Committee on State Development Legislative Council
NSW Parliament House
Macquarie St
SYDNEY NSW 2000
state.development@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Taylor,

Inquiry into the Water NSW Amendment (Warragamba Dam) Bill 2018

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society is a community organisation working to achieve the preservation and regeneration of the natural environment of the Greater Blue Mountains area. The Society has a membership of over 800 people.

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society objects to the *Water NSW Amendment (Warragamba Dam) Bill 2018* because it seeks to overturn provisions in the *National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974* that currently protect the Blue Mountains and Nattai National Parks from artificial flood inundation. This bill is to ensure that the proposal to raise the wall of Warragamba Dam is not unlawful and therefore able to be assessed. However, it also prejudices the assessment of that proposal.

The Society is concerned that the very short timeframe for the Upper House Inquiry will not allow for a full and public consideration of the impacts which this Bill facilitates. It also undermines the appropriately strong legal protections for the creation of national parks.

The proposed raising of Warragamba Dam's wall by 14 metres will periodically flood 4,700 hectares of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage national parks and 65 kilometres of wilderness streams upstream of the raised dam wall. This flooding will have serious and lasting impacts on the incredible biodiversity and many threatened species that contributes to the parks' world heritage listing. These include the loss of

